

Alfred Walter Basler, David Rucker, Susan Lynn Rodriguez, Ricardo Guillermo Salinas, Joseph Moon, Juan Prieto, Dan Bock, Roy Smith, John Sartain, and Ruben Almanza. These people are examples of the message set forth by Jesus Christ in John 15:13: "Greater love hath no one than this: than to lay down one's life for his friends."

Let us not forget the sacrifice made on our behalf right here in this building; our own Capitol Police Officers Chestnut and Gibson died defending Members of Congress and the public who populate this building. The House of Representatives joins families and communities across the nation to remember those members of the force who are no longer with us, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

For the sacrifices to ensure the rule of law, the officers we honor today and their families have the eternal gratitude of a grateful nation. While today we remember and reflect on the last full measure of devotion of these brave peace officers, let us do better than that by remembering their sacrifice and respecting the danger our officers face each and every day on our behalf every other day of the year.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 116, to acknowledge the dedication and sacrifices of the men and women of the United States who were killed or disabled while serving as law enforcement officers. It is fitting that we acknowledge and commend the courage and dedication shown by our law enforcement officers who have given their lives for their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, sadly in the past year, 150 law enforcement officers gave their lives in the performance of their duty. In my own district, although we have been fortunate not to have lost officers in the line of duty in the past year I pause to remember and recognize Randy Stevens, Steven Hodge, Richard Callwood, Dexter Mardenborough, Wilbur Francis, Allen William, and Patrick Sweeney who were all killed as they sought to keep the streets and communities of the Virgin Islands safe.

Mr. Speaker it was President Kennedy, who approved House Joint Resolution 730 in October 1962, which proclaimed May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the Week of May 15th Police Week. Our Police Officers are the defenders of our communities because they bravely protect us from mortal dangers, in some cases at the cost of their own lives. For that we owe them all our deepest gratitude and respect. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 116.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 116. It is a long-awaited tribute to the hard working law enforcement community members.

Countless law enforcement men and women daily dedicate their lives to our country's protection. They face unbelievable danger to say nothing of the sacrifices: death, injury, disability and family stress. We must finally recognize their dedication and commitment to our communities, families and children.

They not only deserve our support and gratitude, but they also deserve protection under the law. That is why I cosponsored H.R. 218, the Community Protection Act. This bill, supported by police nationwide, allows law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons. They need this as criminals know who the officers are, who their families are and where they live. Very simply: law enforcement officers need protection both on and off duty.

When law enforcement officers begin their day, the risk and danger are unknown. I cannot imagine a more unsettling feeling for both the officer and his or her family.

Therefore, I honor law enforcement officers nationwide, particularly those who serve Long Island.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 116, honoring law enforcement officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. Often, the immeasurable contributions of our nation's law enforcement officers go unnoticed. The establishment of a Peace Officers Memorial Day would serve as a powerful tribute to slain officers as well as to those who continue to risk their lives each day to make our communities safe.

In one of the communities I represent, Glendale, California, four police officers and one sheriff's deputy have been killed in the line of duty. Many more have suffered work-related injuries and illnesses that have contributed to early deaths. This ultimate sacrifice deserves honorable recognition.

One of these fallen heroes is Charles A. Lazzaretto, a Glendale Police Officer, who was killed in the line of duty only four years ago. Chuck was born on October 5, 1966 and spent his early childhood living with his family in the California communities of Walnut and Montebello. In 1982, the Lazzaretto family moved to Burbank where his father served as city manager. While attending Glendale Community College in the mid-1980s, Chuck was appointed as a campus public safety officer and subsequently promoted to the rank of sergeant. In 1985, he volunteered for the United States Marine Corps Reserves and attended Officer Candidate School.

Chuck joined the Glendale Police Department on May 3, 1987 where he was appointed as a reserve police officer. In 1991, he received the rank of officer, working assignments in the juvenile, burglary, auto theft, arson, and robbery/homicide areas. Chuck's favorite pastime was spending time with his family. He often spoke of his love for his wife and two sons, Andrew and Matthew, as well as his parents and three brothers. Chuck was a community leader and family role model.

Police officers touch the lives of so many Americans. It is a long overdue tribute that we commemorate the courage and spirit of our nation's law enforcement officers with this resolution. I would also like to add my voice in support of H.R. 1727, which assists the families of those killed in the line of duty. May our fallen heroes and their families find solace in the national recognition of their sacrifice.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR of Georgia). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 116, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FALLEN HERO SURVIVOR BENEFIT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1727) to amend the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 to provide for consistent treatment of survivor benefits for public safety officers killed in the line of duty, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. R. 1727

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit Fairness Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. CONSISTENT TREATMENT OF SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Subsection (b) of section 1528 of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-34) is amended by striking the period and inserting ", and to amounts received in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2001, with respect to individuals dying on or before December 31, 1996.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD).

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot be considering this important legislation on a more appropriate day. Today is Peace Officers Memorial Day. Each year, on May 15, America honors the men and women in law enforcement who have given their lives to keep the American people safe in their communities and on their streets. More than 15,400 brave public safety officers have made the ultimate sacrifice since our Nation was founded.

We just considered a resolution honoring these fallen heroes. Now it is time to honor our public safety officers killed in the line of duty by offering tangible help to their loved ones left behind. This is exactly what the legislation before us does.

The Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit Fairness Act provides tax-free benefits to families of all public safety officers killed in the line of duty regardless of when the officer was killed. This bill, Mr. Speaker, includes law enforcement officers, firefighters, rescue squads, ambulance crews and employees working in disaster or emergency areas.

Under present law, a gross inequity exists because survivor benefits are treated differently, depending on when the public safety officer died. Currently, survivor benefits are tax free only if a public safety officer died in the line of duty after December 31, 1996.

This inequity, Mr. Speaker, arose from the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997